

ROYDEN F. COLE
4 GRANGE CLOSE
LYMPSTONE
DEVON EX8 5LD
01395 263507
25 MAY 2009

*FOR GERALD BATT
PRESIDENT OF THE LANCIA MOTOR CLUB*

SALUTATIONS,

I hope the enclosed 'album' will be of some use. Your request has had the effect of agitating the grey matter to the extent that I have littered the place with scraps of paper bearing cryptic inscriptions such as "solid copper gasket", "metal stitching", "Swiss Cottage" as recollections of incidents have surfaced in my mind; since I can walk the short length of my kitchen and stand before the open larder wondering what the hell I have come there for you will understand my need for such aide-memoires. However I am pretty sure that my captions are factually correct although you may find that some dates are suspect and you may, with justification, query my attribution of the Metallurgique to Count Zbrowski. I cannot be precise about the source of information on this, I may have read it but it could equally have originated in a conversation I had with Douglas Fitzpatrick at Silverstone or at another time when I met him at a lecture on Brunel's "Great Eastern" at Tower Hamlets Library in the mid-sixties.

All of the illustrations are photo-copied enlargements of my original prints and I hope that they will stand up to being reproduced, if that is your intention. You should however ask Jack Romano about the negatives for I am sure that I sent them to him around the time that the enclosed picture of my ex car and ex wife was published in the magazine.

I have a duplicate copy of the compilation with the same picture numbering that will be useful if there are any queries.

The reproductions of the Metallurgique and Edward's Fifth Series are from a 1966 publication by Batsford entitled "Vintage Cars in Colour".

I have also enclosed a memento of VW2140 that has been a tangible reminder of my ownership of the car, the book of petrol coupons that were issued during the Suez Crisis?

I also have the odd metric bolt with Whitworth thread lurking in my workshop that came off the transmission shaft universals.

This does not constitute the memoir that you asked for. This I will be making a start on shortly and in the hope that I can make it more than just a catalogue of the work I did on the cars but I fear that will be a large part of it.

Excuse the title crib on the cover I couldn't come up with anything original as appropriate.

*As Always
Best Wishes
Roy Cole*